

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It describes background of the study, previous study, limitation of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and research paper organization.

A. Background of the Study

Trail of Tears is a novel written by an American author Frances Patton Statham. The book was published by Fawcett Columbine, New York on February 1993. It consists of 427 pages that are divided into 38 chapters. *Trail of Tears* is a historical novel which tells about racial discrimination of the whites towards American Indian in America. Racial discrimination is shown in this novel through the story of Indian Removal Act in 1830s.

Trail of Tears was written by Frances Patton Statham. She is an author and musician. She lives in metro- Atlanta, the state of Georgia, U.S.A. She graduated from Winthrop University with a double major in voice performance and music education. She then continues her education in University of Georgia and received a Master of Fine Arts degree. Statham also studied voice and Opera with Ralph Errole and Ernesto Vinci. Become a member of Mu Phi Epsilon music fraternity, Statham combined two careers. She has given voice concerts in such cities as Madrid, Budapest, Singapore, Vancouver, and Cambridge. She is not only a musician, but also an author. She had written some novels, some of them are

bestselling novels. Frances Patton Statham is included into America's good author. She has received six national and nine regional awards for her novels, including Georgia Author of the Year in Fiction for 1978, 1979, and 1984. She is listed in the World Who's Who of Women, the Dictionary of International Biography, the International Who's Who of Intellectuals, and Personalities of the South. There are nineteen novels written by Frances Patton Statham. Those are *Daughter of Summer Storm*, *Flame of New Orleans*, *Jasmine Moon*, *Call the River Home*, *Trail of Tears*, *Phoenix rising*, *From Love's Ashes*, *On Wings of Fire*, *To Face the Sun*, *The Silk Train*, *The Roswell Women*, *The Roswell Legacy*, *Bright Sun*, *Dark Moon*, *Mary Musgrove*, *Queen of Savannah*, *Murder at Fresco*, *L'Indienne* and *The Boy From Bear Swamp*.

The story of *Trail of Tears* novel centers on Laurel MacDonald. She is the main character of this novel. Laurel is a member of the Cherokee Nation. She is the daughter of Cherokee chiefs, Alex MacDonald and Trudie MacDonald. As chiefs, both her father and her mother are the important persons in Cherokee Nation. Laurel was the luckiest girl in Cherokee since she had educated and graduated from the white man's University. One night, she went to the Mrs. Podewell's house in Chattahoochee after studying. That was the last time she lived in that house because she just graduated from University and would go home in Cherokee. In the long journey to Cherokee, she was accompanied by her friend namely Two Feathers. The journey was full of obstacles and problems. Laurel was a daughter of an Indian chief so many people wanted to kidnap her and took her parent's wealth. However, because of her astuteness, she finally arrived

at home safely. Laurel MacDonald then became a teacher at the mission school in New Echota. New Echota is the capital of the Cherokee nation.

Several months later, she heard a bad news about her parents and the Cherokees. Georgia's governor had confiscated all Cherokee-owned lands when Laurel returns to her old home to looking for her parents. When she arrived at home, the MacDonald property had been occupied by white settlers who claimed it in a land lottery. Laurel was surprised when a father of the white settler family seizes Laurel's pony and he say "If I says it's mine, the law says it's mine." There is a violation of treaty that had been made long time ago between white man and Indians. The treaty stated that Cherokee was a sovereign nation but then Georgia government said that the treaty was not been valid anymore. Georgia broke certain laws and created a new law. Laurel MacDonald confused about what she have to do. All members of Cherokee families were separated. Under the authoritarian leadership of United States President Andrew Jackson and Georgia's governor George Gilmer, the Cherokee were asked to accept the new regulation for Indian tribes. Strangely, some of the Cherokees betrayed their tribe by accepting the new rules and this resulted in the signing into law of the Treaty of New Echota. This treaty was ratified by a small group of Cherokee leaders in 1835. Meanwhile, John Ross as the principal chief of Cherokee participated on the council meeting in New Echota to propose a petition for the United States Supreme Court. The petition was about the refusal of the removal. However, Andrew Jackson did not pay attention for the petition so John Ross was unsuccessful to save Cherokee from removal act.

In 1838, the government continues the unfair treatment towards Indian people. Cherokee Indians finally been forced out of Georgia. After many repudiations and reprisals, the Indian people finally gave in and began a march that would be known in later times as the "trail of tears" or "*Nunna dual Tsuny*" that means "Trail Where They Cried". The beautiful wilderness nation was becomes a battleground. The Georgia militia's government-sponsored campaign to remove the Cherokee people from their land had pitted friend against friend, brother against brother, white man against Indian. There were more than fifteen thousand Cherokees including Laurel began on this trip from Georgia to the west, but only eleven thousand who arrived. There were about four thousand Cherokee people dead and perished during the long journey because of starvation, cruelty, exposure, and exhaustion.

As a literary work, *Trail of Tears* novel also gets some public responses. Novel has a close relationship with the readers as society. *Trail of Tears* is also reviewed by the readers. However, the researcher only found two positive responses for this novel in the online bookstore www.amazon.com. The first one is an editorial review from *Reed Business Information, Inc.* The editor describes a brief synopsis of *Trail of Tears*. The editor also correlates between *Trail of Tear* sand *The Roswell Women* as the previous Statham's novel. The publisher said that the storytelling of *Trail of Tears* novel takes a back seat to didacticism in Statham's *The Roswell Women* grim tale of how in mid-19th century Georgia, the Cherokee were robbed, driven from their homes and sent on a forced march westward. The publishers also said that this novel seems calculated to appeal to a

YA reader rather than adults. But it is doubtful that there is enough entertainment in Laurel's story to hold the attention of YA readers long enough to get the historical message across.

The second review is from a customer of this novel. It was posted on August 20th, 1999. He as the reader gives a positive response by giving five stars on rating. He said that the book is finely crafted with a vivid, poignant picture of a wonderful heroine Laurel MacDonald. Laurel caught in one of the most terrible events in our nation's history—the forced removal of the Indians to the west. He was very satisfied of the way the author tells the story. Statham makes the events so real even he had enters to the imagination like he as the member of Cherokee when *Trail of Tears* happened. Thus, he reads the book three times and has gained new insight with each reading.

However, the researcher did not find the negative responds. Although *Trail of Tears* is not a bestselling novel, the novel is an interesting historical novel. It consists of historical story that truly happens in America. The history of Indian removal act is well portrayed and correlated with romantic and touching story.

According to the researcher, there are four interesting points of the novel to be researched. First is because of the realistic story of the novel. It is a historical novel that is based on the true story of Indian Removal Act in 1830's. That is Cherokee, a Native American tribe that suffered the removal act. President Andrew Jackson and Georgia's governor confiscates all Cherokee-owned lands. They were forced by the government to move into Indian Territory. The route of the relocation is about hundreds' miles from their homeland in Georgia. The

Cherokee people called this journey as the “*Nunna dual Tsuny*” translated means "Trail Where They Cried" it is more popularly refers to the *Trail of Tears*. Many are dying during the journey because of starvation, cruelty, exposure, and exhaustion.

Second, the plot of this novel is interesting. The way the author tells the story attracts the reader. By adding such romantic and heroic story, the author makes the story more alive and detail. The chapters are well organized by a chronological order. Each chapter contains causal connections and it directed into a main theme.

The third reason is because of the moral value or message of the novel. The novel is a manifestation of a protest for the racial discrimination towards Native Americans in United States. There is racial discrimination in America every time that against the equality principle of human right. The author of the novel tries to tell the readers how the white Americans were greedy, cruel, and brutal in that time. This novel is important to be analyzed because there is a close relationship between literary work and society. The true story of Indian removal act in 1830's is related with the heterogeneity of society in America. The heterogeneity of society causes many social problems. One of social problems is racial discrimination.

The last reason is the education factor. It is to supply theoretical framework in the research of literature in the English Department, especially in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (UMS). It gives positive contribution to the development of the large body of knowledge and to enrich the literary study.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher uses the sociological theory as an approach to analyze this novel, because the content of the novel contains of the story about social relationship and social interaction among races in America. It relates to the racial discrimination of the white American towards American Indian. By so doing, the researcher gives the title: “The Racial Discrimination Reflected In Frances Patton Statham’s *Trail Of Tears* (1993): A Sociological Approach”

B. Literature Review

The study on *Trail of Tears* novel (1993) is first being conducted in the research paper. The researcher has researched through local library of UMS, UNS, UGM, UNDIP, and Sanatha Dharma University but the researcher found none of it. Digital libraries such as Disexpress, Pro-Quest, Ebsco, and Cambridge online journal have also reported zero call on the research of *Trail of Tears* so the researcher cannot make the comparison with the other researchers who conducted *Trail of Tears* novel. Thus, this study is first ever conducted at least in Muhhamadiyah University of Surakarta (UMS). The researcher tries to analyze Racial Discrimination reflected in Frances Patton Statham’s *Trail of Tears: A Sociological Approach*.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is “How is the racial discrimination reflected in Frances Patton Statham’s *Trail of Tears* novel?”

Based on the major question, the research question can be seen as follows:

1. How is the racial discrimination reflected in *Trail of Tears* novel?
2. Why does Frances Patton Statham address the issue of racial discrimination?

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher gives limitation to focus on sociological approach. It is emphasized on racial discrimination in Frances Patton Statham's *Trail of Tears* (1993) novel by employing sociological perspective as the primary approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the researcher formulates the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To describe the racial discrimination reflected in *Trail of Tears* novel by using sociological approach
2. To reveal the underlying reason of the author to address the issue in the novel.

F. Benefits of the Study

The researcher hopes this research can be useful for the other. The researcher expects the benefits of the study into two, they are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Trail of Tears* (1993) novel written by Frances Patton Statham.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to fulfill the final project of the researcher for getting bachelor degree of education in English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (UMS)

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study, the researcher applies qualitative research. In brief, qualitative research in this research is employing the method of collecting, describing, classifying, and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion. By using qualitative method, this research is aimed to describe the racial discrimination in “*Trail of Tears*” novel based on the sociological perspective. The data sources are library and literary data. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study (2) determining the object of the study (3) determining data and data source (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Trail of Tears* novel written by Frances Patton Statham in 1993. It is analyzed by using a sociological approach.

3. Type of the Data and Data Sources

a. Type of data

The type of data is textual data. It consists of words, phrases and sentences which are used in *Trail of Tears* novel.

b. Type of data source

There are two data sources that are needed to do this research, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources.

1) Primary data source

The primary data source is *Trail of Tears (1993)* novel written by Frances Patton Statham

2) Secondary data sources

The secondary data sources are from other sources related to the study, such as website, dictionary, and some books that support the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods of collecting data are documentation the picture and note taking with the following steps:

- a. Reading the original novel for several times
- b. Determining the object that will be analyzed

- c. Taking notes of important thing from primary and secondary data source
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data
- e. Browsing on the internet to search more information that relates with the novel.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis which concerns with structural element of the *Trail of Tears* (1993) novel written by Frances Patton Statham. The collected data are interpreted and analyzed in detail by using sociological approach. Then the researcher draws conclusion based on the analysis.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “*Racial Discrimination Reflected in Frances Patton Statham’s Trail of Tears (1993): A Sociological Approach*” consist of six chapters which are presented as follows: Chapter I is introduction of the research that includes the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consisting of the notion of sociological approach, the major principle of sociological approach, notion of racial discrimination and structural elements of the novel. Chapter III is the historical background of America in the late twentieth century. Chapter IV consists of the structural analysis of the novel by describing character

and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, theme and a brief discussion. Chapter V is sociological analysis dealing with racial discrimination of the whites towards American Indian in America. The last is Chapter VI that contains of conclusion, suggestion and pedagogical implication.